This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-10 (cancelled)

Claim 11 (new): A method for replacing liquid in a riser during connection and disconnection of the riser and a subsea wellhead, the method comprising the steps of:

connecting a body to a drill pipe, the body comprising a sealing surface that is configured to displaceably seal against an inner wall of the riser and thereby divide the interior of the riser into separate upper and lower riser sections;

moving the drill pipe and body together downwardly in the riser towards the wellhead to reduce the volume of the lower riser section and thus force fluid out of the lower riser section; and

closing the wellhead.

Claim 12 (new): The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of disconnecting the riser from the closed wellhead.

Claim 13 (new): The method of claim 11, wherein the wellhead is closed by a sealing valve.

Claim 14 (new): The method of claim 11, comprising the step of moving the drill pipe and body downwardly until the body is located proximate the wellhead in order to maximize the amount of fluid forced out of the lower riser section.

Claim 15 (new): The method of claim 11, comprising the step of filling the upper riser section with fluid as the drill pipe and body are moved downwardly.

Claim 16 (new): The method of claim 11, wherein the drill pipe comprises upper and lower drill pipe sections and the body is connected to the drill pipe between the upper and lower drill pipe sections.

Claim 17 (new): The method of claim 16, wherein a hanger tool facilitates connection and disconnection of the upper drill pipe section and the lower drill pipe section.

Claim 18 (new): The method of claim 16, comprising the step of disconnecting the upper drill pipe section and the body from the lower drill pipe section prior to closing the wellhead.

Claim 19 (new): The method of claim 11, wherein at least one pipe connected to the wellhead receives fluid emitted from the lower riser section as the drill pipe and body are moved downwardly.

Claim 20 (new): The method of claim 19, comprising the step of filling the at least one pipe connected to the wellhead with fluid after the wellhead is closed.

Claim 21 (new): The method of claim 11, wherein the body comprises a piston.

Claim 22 (new): A method for replacing liquid in a riser during connection and disconnection of the lower end of the riser and a subsea wellhead, the method comprising the steps of:

connecting the lower end of the riser to the wellhead;

connecting a body to a drill pipe, the body comprising a sealing surface that is configured to displaceably seal against an inner wall of the riser and thereby divide the interior of the riser into separate upper and lower riser sections;

opening the wellhead; and

moving the drill pipe and body together upwardly in the riser away from the wellhead so that the body draws fluid into the lower riser section.

Claim 23 (new): The method of claim 22, comprising the step of connecting at least one pipe to the wellhead and wherein fluid is drawn into the lower riser section via the at least one pipe connected to the wellhead as the drill pipe and body are forced upwardly.

Claim 24 (new): The method of claim 22, wherein the drill pipe comprises upper and lower drill pipe sections and the body is connected to the drill pipe between the upper and lower drill pipe sections prior to moving of the drill pipe and body upwardly in the riser.

Claim 25 (new): The method of claim 24, wherein the body comprises a piston.

Claim 26 (new): The method of claim 22, comprising the step of disconnecting the body from the drill pipe prior to commencement of drilling operations.

Claim 27 (new): A system for replacing liquid in a riser during connection and disconnection of the riser and a subsea wellhead, the system comprising:

a riser connected to a subsea wellhead;

a body connected to a drill pipe, the body comprising a sealing surface that is configured to displaceably seal against an inner wall of the riser and thereby divide the interior of the riser into separate upper and lower riser sections;

the drill pipe and body configured to move downwardly together in the riser towards the wellhead to reduce the volume of the lower riser section and thus forces fluid out of the lower riser section;

the drill pipe and body configured to move upwardly together in the riser away from the wellhead to increase the volume of the lower riser section and thus draw fluid into the lower riser section; and

a sealing mechanism configured to close the wellhead.

Claim 28 (new): The system of claim 27, comprising a hanger tool connected to or forming part of the body.

Claim 29 (new): The system of claim 27, comprising at least one tube connected to the wellhead and configured to receive and introduce fluids from and to the wellhead, respectively.